



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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### U K R A I N E

#### Challenges and Opportunities for Philanthropy in Ukraine Discussed

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast welcomed more than 80 participants to the second international conference on philanthropy, which was held on November 13-14 in Kyiv and dedicated to fostering a culture of giving among Ukrainians.

The conference, "Promoting a Culture of Giving: Mobilizing Resources within Communities, from Businesses and Individuals", was dedicated to developing philanthropy through the introduction of innovative tools and approaches in three areas: corporate, community and individual philanthropy. The conference also provided an overview on the development of philanthropy in Ukraine, current approaches and new models for resource mobilization.



*Jerry Greenfield (second left) with conference participants  
tasting Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream*

Opening the conference, USAID Mission Director Gast emphasized that, "the timing is right for philanthropy in Ukraine," and added that, "Our current intention is to stimulate social responsibility and increase the level of philanthropy by helping to develop resources and innovative strategies for giving in partnership with local businesses and NGOs."

Among the conference's guests was Jerry Greenfield, co-founder of Ben and Jerry's Home-

made Ice Cream and a Board member of the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC). ISC is the international NGO that implements USAID's Ukraine Citizen Action Network project and was responsible for organizing the conference. UCAN is a four-year, nationwide project to build the capacity of Ukrainian organizations, through which citizens can work to communicate their priorities and directly influence the processes of democratic governance.

#### ***Together for Health* Project Launches Partnerships with Two Oblasts**

USAID's Deputy Director Peter Argo helped launch the *Together for Health* project in both Kharkiv and Lviv oblasts, in cooperation with State Oblast Administration officials and health authorities from each oblast. The two oblasts had won a competition among Ukraine's regions to become pilot sites for the new project.

*Together for Health* seeks to promote a shift away from high rates of abortion, unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in Ukraine toward safe and effective modern methods of contraception. It will also build public-private partnerships with pharmaceutical companies to make a broader range of contraceptives available in pharmacies at affordable prices.



*Peter Argo (left) speaking at the project launch in Lviv*

Noting that some people are concerned that family planning will aggravate the demographic situation in the country, Argo stated at the Lviv launch that "the main impact of contraception is to reduce high

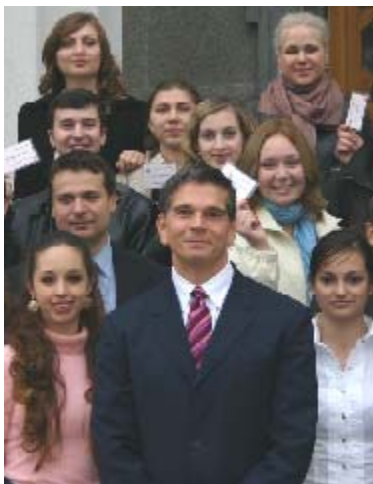
levels of abortion that compromise women's health and future fertility. The Deputy Mission Director added that, "There is abundant evidence that family planning is one of the most effective public health interventions that any government can support."

*Together for Health* is focusing initially on Lviv and Kharkiv, but will reach about half of Ukraine's oblasts by 2009.

### **60 Young Ukrainians Receive Parliament Internships through USAID Support**

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast and Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksander Moroz welcomed a new class of parliamentary interns on October 26 during the opening ceremony of the 2006-2007 Parliamentary Internship Program. This year marks the internship program's twelfth year.

Sixty interns were selected for the 2007 program, 40 full-time interns and six part-time interns, supported through monthly grants from USAID, as well as 14 volunteers who will intern in the Verkhovna Rada without USAID grants.



*Earl Gast (center) with some of the PDP interns*

In his remarks, Mr. Gast stressed the importance of the work that the interns would be doing in the next months, all essential tasks for developing and maintaining the Verkhovna Rada's effectiveness.

The Parliamentary Internship Program was founded in 1995 by the Association of Former Members of Congress with an aim to involve young professionals in the legislative process and promote democratic principles in the Ukrainian Parliament. USAID has supported the program since 2000.

### **Budget Managers Meet on Local Budget Deficits**

Budget managers from throughout Ukraine met in Chernivtsi on October 11-13 to discuss this year's extensive municipal budget deficits and begin work on 2007 budgets. The Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) organized the program jointly with the Association of Financiers of Ukraine (AFU) within the framework of USAID's Expanding Training and Advocacy Services Project. Chiefs of Municipal Financial Departments of oblast centers and major cities, the AUC representatives, and Municipal Budget Reform Project experts also took part in the event.



*Calculating the local budget deficit for 2007*

Participants discussed the methodology for defining the scope of the local budget deficit, and determined that the combined deficit of municipal budgets in Ukraine would come to UAH 9.1 billion in 2007. They analyzed the conditions, problems and prospects for executing local budgets for this year, as well as the approaches to be utilized in the formation of next year's budget.

The participants developed and submitted a letter to Ukraine's Ministry of Finance, which contains AUC and AFU comments and proposals to the Draft 2007 State Budget of Ukraine, and states that it is necessary either to amend the Draft 2007 State Budget of Ukraine and associated legislation, or to adopt new laws and regulations to prevent local budget deficits in the next year.

### **Elections Experience is Focus of Conference**

On October 30, US Ambassador William Taylor participated in a conference reviewing the March 2006 elections in Ukraine, which was called, "Elections 2006: Experience, Problems, Perspectives." Also taking part in the two-day event were the members of the Central Election Commission, representatives of Government and

the Presidential Secretariat, and Members of Parliament.

The conference sought to analyze the 2006 elections and discuss paths for institutionalizing positive changes in Ukraine's election administration and practices.

The conference was organized by USAID's Strengthening Electoral Administration in Ukraine Project, implemented by Development Associates, Inc. The Project's objectives include: 1) improved legislative/regulatory framework for elections; and 2) improved adherence to the legal framework for elections by the Government of Ukraine, political parties and other actors.

### **"Thank you!"**

Ten representatives from several Crimea-based medical and educational institutions and NGOs, visited Charlotte, North Carolina, in mid-July as participants of USAID's Community Connections Program. The theme of this three-week program was HIV/AIDS – Combating Stigma and Discrimination. While there the participants attended seminars and trainings, took part in discussions, and gained hands-on experience by working alongside their U.S. colleagues to see how stigma and discrimination is fought in the U.S.



*The Ukrainian delegation during a visit to the Chemical Dependency Center, Charlotte, North Carolina*

The Community Connections Program offers three to five-week-long practical training opportunities and internships in the U.S. for entrepreneurs, local government officials, non-governmental organization leaders, education administrators, as well as medical, business support, and environmental professionals from Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.

Since their return to Ukraine, many of the participants of the HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination program have been able to apply what they learned in the U.S. Several have had their experiences included in articles in the local media, including Tatar-language publications.

The group expressed its gratitude for the U.S. visit in a collectively written poem, which was presented as a gift to the host organization, the International House of Metrolina:

"We had Community Connections  
And had a lot of helpful sessions  
About problems, drugs and AIDS  
And how we should fight against it.

And people showed us day by day  
How AIDS is prevented in the USA.

Everybody! Thank you! Please  
From Ukraine with blessings!  
Welcome, welcome to the Black Sea!  
All of you we will be glad to see!"

### **Upcoming Events**

**November 23**, Citizen Participation in Elections in Ukraine Project, Public debates on Chernigiv regional TV on "Human Rights Observance of Detained Persons and Employees of Law enforcement Agencies in Chernigiv Oblast," Chernihiv.

**November 25 - December 3**, U-Media Project, U-Media Managers School (Module 1), Kyiv.

**November 28 - 29**, Parliamentary Development Project, Conference for Regional Journalists on "Oversight Functions of the Verkhovna Rada," Kyiv.

**November 29**, Parliamentary Development Project, International Parliamentary Technical Assistance Coordination (IPTAC) Meeting, Kyiv.

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# MOLDOVA

## USAID Supports Moldovan IT Companies at the Systems 2006 Exhibition in Germany

With funding from the USAID Competitiveness Enhancement and Enterprise Development (CEED) and the German-Moldovan Business Partnership projects, three leading Moldovan software developers were able to attend a European trade show for the first time. The participating companies included RIT Labs, Dekart and Deeplace. Their participation at Systems 2006 in Munich, Germany, from October 23-27, gave them an opportunity to showcase their innovative security solutions and build sales.



*Representative from Dekart demonstrates their Private Disk to a perspective buyer from Japan*

In the words of RIT Labs CEO Serghei Demchenko, "Systems put us in direct contact with the market and gave us a chance to see problems and expectations during discussions with users." To this end, the three companies not only received unprecedented exposure but took home lessons learned about penetrating the international market.

### Cleaner Communities for Moldova

On November 18, US Ambassador to Moldova Michael D. Kirby presented local officials from 17 communities with keys to brand new garbage trucks provided by USAID. The vehicles will improve community waste management and ultimately help make a cleaner Moldova.

As part of the USAID Local Government Reform Project, each participating community has pledged to improve the quality of solid-waste management services in their locality. All 17 communities now have a government-certified landfill and committed

funding towards better solid-waste management services.



*Ambassador Kirby (right) presenting keys to Gheorghe Brasovschi, Mayor of Singerei*

"With the new vehicle, which is a first in our community, we intend to keep our village clean and provide garbage collecting services in two neighboring villages, Sofia and Grenauti." said Constantin Bindiu, Director of the Pelinia Municipal Enterprise. It is expected that each community will be in greater compliance with both environmental and public sanitation standards, which in turn will positively impact the quality of life of the local population.

### Preventing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C in Moldova Project is Launched

On October 19, USAID launched its newest project: Preventing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis in Moldova (PHH). The four-year project has a budget of \$6.2 million and will be implemented by a consortium led by the Emerging Markets Group (EMG).

Hepatitis and HIV/AIDS are both critical problems in Moldova. Chronic hepatitis is the fifth leading cause of death. HIV/AIDS prevalence is still low (approximately .2%), but there has been a steady increase in cases since 1999.

The PHH project will provide a comprehensive approach to preventing HIV and Hepatitis by strengthening voluntary counseling and testing services, laboratory capacity, and behavior change communication programs, and improving blood transfusion and blood product safety and guidelines for medical practices with the ultimate goal of building the capacity of Moldovan institutions.

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